


NAVAL AVIATION PRE-FLIGHT SCHOOL
CHAPEL HILL, NORTH CAROLINA

C O M M I S S I O N E D :

May 23, 1942

Commander O. O. Kessing, U. S. Navy

Commanding Officer



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NAVAL AVIATION PRE-FLIGHT SCHOOL
CHAPEL HILL, NORTH CAROLINA

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Through the Bureau of Navigation (now known as the Bureau of Naval Personnel) the Bureau of Aeronautics has set up four Naval Aviation Pre-Flight Schools throughout the country: St. Mary's College in California, the western; University of Iowa, the mid-western; University of Georgia, the southern, and the University of North Carolina, the eastern.

The primary function of these schools is to give prospective Naval Aviators the proper naval indoctrination and to give them a physical education course that will so strengthen their bodies and steel their nerves that they will be the most physically fit of any aviators in the world.

The course will include military and academic programs as well as the physical training.

When the school reaches its full strength, it will have nearly 1900 cadets, 200 officers and instructors, and 125 enlisted personnel. The regiment of cadets is divided into six battalions of two companies each and will be under the command and direction of commissioned officers from the regimental commander down to the platoon leaders. The course will include infantry drill and military tactics, seamanship, navigation, ordnance, first aid, and signals. The academic course includes mathematics, physics, and an intensive study in nomenclature and recognition of both allied and enemy planes and warships. There is also a course covering the essentials of Naval Service which will indoctrinate the cadets with the traditions of the Service and American Naval and Military history.

The physical training program is the most strenuous and complete that has ever been undertaken by any college or organization in this country. The cadet will learn the eye and ear coordination that comes with football practice; he will experience the strain and bodily contact that goes with wrestling and boxing; he will attain the speed and the involuntary accuracy that is developed by basketball, soccer and tumbling; he will become proficient in sustained swimming and will be rounded out with programs of cross country work and hard, manual labor. Supervised mass calisthenics will be part of the cadet's daily routine.

The school, in all respects possible, is patterned after the U. S. Naval Academy, and the cadets will not only learn to receive and obey orders but will learn to properly give commands. The discipline will be strict and each platoon of cadets will be carefully supervised by experienced officers.

The school is complete with medical and dental and supply departments.

There is a Chaplain assigned to the station, and vespers will be held every evening after dinner. Attendance at vespers is not compulsory; however, cadets must attend church every Sunday morning.

The cadets will keep their own quarters in an orderly fashion and the Commanding and Executive officers will hold frequent inspections. While the discipline will be rigid and the work hard, there are going to be no unenforceable regulations. The cadets are volunteers in a volunteer service and will be carefully supervised by young officers of their own type and calibre, and it will only be one who is incorrigible who will not enter into the spirit of the school to the maximum of his ability.

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T W O

It is planned to instill into the cadets a love of country and the ideals of freedom and democracy that will better fit them to do the job that is ahead.

His education will qualify him mentally, and his physical conditioning will give him the stamina to follow through.

NAVAL RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CORPS

This unit, comprised of students of the University, is headed by Captain W. S. Popham, United States Navy, and is constituted as a regular department of the United States Naval Reserve. These young men study naval sciences and tactics in addition to their course at the University, and upon graduation are given commissions as Ensigns in the U. S. Naval Reserve.

There are about 200 of them at the University and they are instructed by a corps of five officers and some ten or more enlisted personnel. They have their own Armory, regular Navy rifles, an ordnance drill room and a rifle range. They have a 4 inch Naval gun, fully equipped for training purposes. They study seamanship and navigation, communications and signals, and in the Summer, they actually go aboard ships along the coast where they gain practical Naval experience.

Captain Popham is the Commandant of the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps at the University of No. Carolina. He was graduated from the Naval Academy in the class of 1914. He holds the Mexican Service Campaign Medal and the World War Medal with the Overseas Clasp and is a veteran of the Navy Submarine service. His most recent sea command was as commander of a division of destroyers in the Pacific late in 1941. He represents the Commandant of the Sixth Naval District at today's exercises.

CAROLINA VOLUNTEER TRAINING CORPS

This organization is part of the Military Review and is under the command of Colonel W. A. Raborg, U. S. Army, Retired. The C.V.T.C. is an entirely voluntary organization that was incorporated within the student body of the University of North Carolina to take the place of an R.O.T.C. unit which does not exist. The boys furnish their own uniforms and march and drill on their own time, and in the past few months have obtained a marked degree of perfection. The spirit of these boys exemplifies that of the American youth who is looking forward to the day when he will become a member of the regular armed forces of this country.

T H R E E

COMMANDER O. O. KESSING, U. S. NAVY * Commanding Officer. From Indiana, age 51. Graduate of Annapolis in 1914. Prominent in athletics while a midshipman, having participated in boxing, wrestling, and football. In the late 20's was the first graduate manager of athletics at the United States Naval Academy. During 32 years in the naval service, has had a long and distinguished career, having spent more than 22 years at sea. Commander Kessing has served in every sea of the world, his last command being a Navy Transport on the Asiatic station. He holds the following medals: Mexican 1914, World War with overseas Clasp, Haitian Campaign, and China Service. Commander Kessing is married and has three sons, the eldest of whom enlisted in the Army on December 8th.

It evolves upon Commander Kessing, as the Commanding Officer of the Naval Aviation Pre-Flight School, to operate this station and head up the large organization of military, academic, and physical instructors who will train the future commissioned naval aviators. Commander Kessing has been ^aprime mover in the setting up of the four Naval Aviation Pre-Flight Schools and inspected more than sixty colleges and Universities before the final selections were made.

LIEUT. JOHN P. GRAFF, U. S. NAVY (RETIRED) - Executive Officer. From Pennsylvania, 45 years old. Graduated from Annapolis in 1919, Class of 1920. Rowed on the Intercollegiate Champion Navy Crew in 1919. Was retired in 1924 due to disability incurred in line of duty. In private life was employed by the Standard Oil Company of Pennsylvania and was recalled to active service in March 1942.

LIEUT. WILLIAM C. CLARK - Graduated from Annapolis, Class of 1935. Was a famous football halfback and punter of the Naval Academy during the middle 30's. In private life he was an executive of the Chevrolet Motor Company in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and his military status in the Pre-Flight School is Aide to the Executive Officer.

ENSIGN L. S. MURPHY - from San Francisco, California. Graduate of Yale University and is the First Lieutenant of the Pre-Flight School.

LIEUT. COMDR. B. H. MICOU - Supply Corps. 46 years old, hails from Detroit, Michigan. Graduate of Cornell, Class of 1917. Veteran of the first World War, transport service. Was an Insurance Company Executive.

F O U R

DR. JESSE G. WRIGHT, LIEUT. COMDR., MEDICAL CORPS, U. S. NAVY - 16 years service, having spent his recent years as a Flight Surgeon aboard Naval Aircraft Carriers. Dr. Wright is head of the medical department of the Pre-Flight School.

LIEUT. COMDR. GEORGE CLARK, USNR, *- the well-known "Potsy" Clark of amateur and professional athletic fame, graduate of Illinois University, head football coach of several universities, coach of three world champion professional football clubs and director of athletics for the State of Michigan School System. Lieutenant Commander Clark is a World War Veteran of the A. E. F. and played on the Championship A. E. F. team. He hails from Grand Rapids, Michigan, and at the present time, although a Democrat, is being run for the U. S. Congress on a Popular Combined Party Ticket.

He is being transferred from the NAVAL AVIATION PRE-FLIGHT SCHOOL, Chapel Hill, N.C., to the NAVAL AIR STATION, Pensacola, Florida, which is the biggest athletic director's job in the country.

LIEUT. COMDR. HARVEY J. HARMON - heading up the Athletic Department of the Pre-Flight School. A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania where he was well known as an athlete and later coach. His recent coaching assignment was at Rutgers University.

LIEUT. COMDR. JOHN PHILLIP SABO - well known football coach at Yale University. 42 years old, is a Lieutenant Commander, U. S. Naval Reserve, and is heading up the mass exercise calisthenics for the Pre-Flight School.

LIEUT. DON GEORGE - 36 years old, graduate of Michigan in 1929. Became a professional wrestler in 1930. Won the Worlds Title the same year. Competed in every state in the Union and in 23 foreign countries. Hails from Buffalo, New York, and is Head Coach in Hand-to-hand competition in the physical training Pre-Flight program.

LIEUT. JOHN H. VAUGHT - All-American Guard at Texas Christian, 1932. One of the football coaches for this Naval Training Station and a Company Commander of Cadets.

LIEUT. WILBUR B. DAVIS - from Bozeman, Montana, a lawyer by profession and before his enlistment in the Navy was with the firm of Gessdorff, Swain and Wood in New York City. Is a Battalion Commander and an instructor in Nomenclature and Recognition.

F I V E

LIEUTENANT RICHARD H. ROBINSON is a graduate of Princeton. In private life he specialized in the financial reorganization of railroads as an employee of a large investment company in Wall Street.]

LIEUTENANT DONALD P. CHALMERS is from East Orange, New Jersey. He is a nationally famous swimmer. He will coach swimming and water polo at the Pre-Flight School. He is a company commander.

LIEUTENANT JOHN J. BOYD is a graduate of Temple University where he was an All-America guard in 1934. He was a life guard for several years on the New Jersey coast, where he has more than 500 rescues to his credit.

LIEUTENANT JOHN M. STOCKER is a lawyer. He was graduated from Penn State College where he was prominent in athletics. He is a company commander and an instructor in Nomenclature and Recognition.

LIEUTENANT GEORGE F. NEGRONI was intercollegiate boxing champion in 1934. He will coach boxing and hand to hand combat. He is a company commander.

LIEUTENANT WILLIAM P. PATTERSON is from Chicago. He graduated from Yale Law School and practiced law in Dayton, Ohio before entering the Service. He is a battalion commander and an instructor in Nomenclature and Recognition.

LIEUTENANT ROGER T. WALSH is a graduate of Boston College. He has been prominent in athletics in New England for the past seven years. He has been particularly successful as a high school football coach.

LIEUTENANT NEIL DANIELS is from West Virginia. He is a graduate of Davis Elkins and of Duke University Law School. He practiced law in North Carolina. He is a Company Commander and an instructor in Nomenclature and Recognition.

LIEUTENANT RAYMOND A. SNYDER is a graduate of Ashland College in Ohio. He has been in the physical education department at Columbia University. He holds a Senior Life Saving certificate and is an accredited American Red Cross Life Saving Instructor.

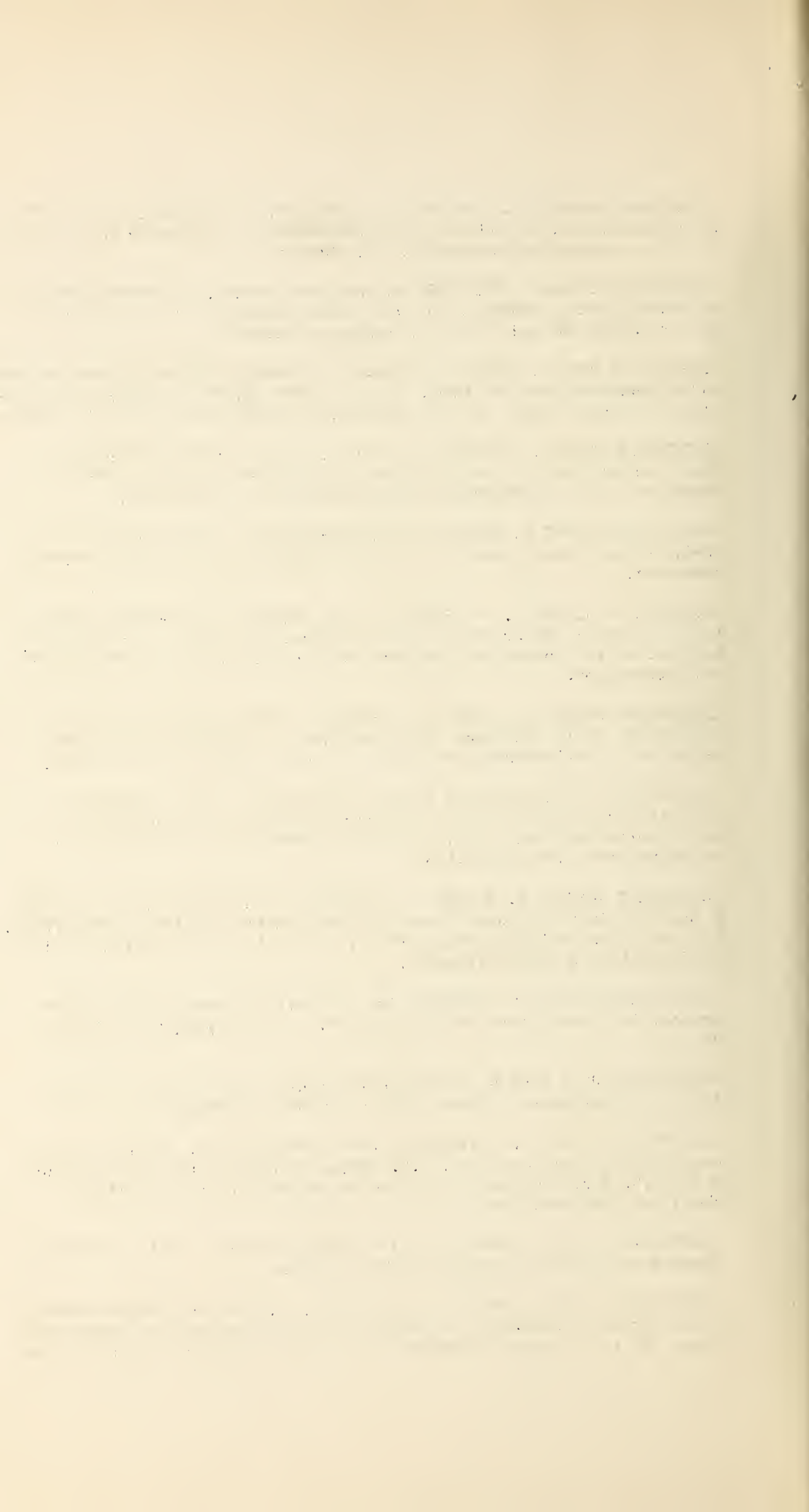
LIEUTENANT VINCENT C. TOMPKINS is a Battalion Commander and an instructor in Nomenclature and Recognition. He is a graduate Civil Engineer.

LIEUTENANT JOHN ABRAMS is from Philadelphia. He was an all-around athlete at Swarthmore College. He is a Company Commander.

LIEUTENANT ROBERT D. ROBINSON is from Massachusetts. He is a veteran of the first World War, U.S. Army. He has had ten years service in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve and is assigned to the Pre-Flight School as a Drill-master.

LIEUTENANT EDWIN W. GREENE is from Massachusetts. He is a Company Commander and Sports Program baseball coach.

LIEUTENANT JAMES P. MORAN is from Boston. He was All-Eastern guard at Holy Cross in 1934-35. He played for two years with the Boston Redskins. He is a Company Commander and a Sports Program athletic coach.



S I X

LIEUT. WILBERT R. AUGUSTIN - Lieutenant U. S. Naval Reserve, a Company Commander and will coach gymnastics and tumbling in the Pre-Flight School program.

LIEUT. JOHN C. REID - from Washington, D. C. Graduate of Oberlin College, practiced law in Washington. Is a Company Commander and an instructor in Nomenclature and Recognition.

LIEUT. JOSEPH M. HEWLETT - was the Intercollegiate champion all-around athlete in 1938. He went to school at Temple University and is in the military and athletic program of the Pre-Flight School.

LIEUT. F. L. GILLESPIE - is a construction engineer from M.I.T. and for several years was well up in the National Intercollegiate championship race in squash and tennis. Was the head tennis coach at Amherst College for seven years.

LIEUT. ELLIS W. GOODMAN - 30 years old, from Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Was in the Ice and Coal business in Winston-Salem and a member of the Chamber of Commerce and Lions Club. Is a Company Commander and an instructor in Nomenclature and Recognition.

LIEUT. GLENN KILLINGER - from West Chester Teachers College. Was a Big League Baseball player with the New York Yankees and professional football player with the New York Giants. Former member of Walter Camp's All-American Football Team.

LIEUT. ROBERT V. BRATLEY - graduate of the University of North Carolina and the University of Virginia Law School. Practiced law in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Is a Company Commander and an instructor in Nomenclature and Recognition.

LIEUT. ERNEST MESSIKOMER - head coach of basketball at Temple University in Philadelphia and one of the leading basketball players of recent years.

LIEUT. THEODORE D. TIEKEN - from Chicago, Illinois. Graduate of Chicago University Law School, and in law practice specialized in corporation work. Well known in Boy Scout work. Is a Company Commander and an instructor in Nomenclature and Recognition.

S E V E N

LIEUTENANT ARTHUR J. SMYTH is from Brooklyn, New York and Holy Cross College. He is a company Commander and an instructor in Nomenclature and Recognition. He was prominent in athletics in college and he was well known in business, holding a prominent position with the Manufacturers Trust Company in New York.

LIEUTENANT THOMAS CARRUTHERS has served as Director of Athletics at the University of Virginia for the past few years. His teams have opposed the varsity squads of the University of North Carolina. He will be Assistant Director of Athletics at the Pre-Flight School.

LIEUTENANT DON KEPLER is a graduate of Penn State. He played professional baseball for 10 years. He pitched an exhibition game against the Cincinnati Reds in 1930. This was the first night game ever played by a big league team. He is a Company Commander in the Pre-Flight School and works with the military track division of the sports program.

ENSIGN ED ARD MACK is from Chicago. He was graduated from the University of Michigan where he was butterfly breast stroke swimming champion for three years. He has been in the Supply Corps for about six months and fills the duties of Disbursing Officer at the Pre-Flight School.

ENSIGN GUS ZITRIDES is the former Eastern Intercollegiate boxing champion and All-East football player from Dartmouth. He has served as Line Coach at Cornell University for the past two seasons.

ENSIGN JOHN J. ECONOMOS comes from Pittsburgh. He starred in athletics at Penn State during the middle thirties. He is a Platoon Commander at this school and a coach in the football sports program.

ENSIGN ARREN CHIVERS is the National Amateur ski jump champion from Dartmouth. He was on the United State ski team in 1936. He is a Platoon Commander and assistant instructor in the Pre-Flight School.

ENSIGN RALPH CASEY is from the University of North Carolina. He is a Platoon Commander and a swimming instructor.

ENSIGN FRANK J. O'HORA is from Scranton, Pennsylvania. He was an all-around athlete at Penn State. He is a physical instructor in this program.

ENSIGN JOHN . MEEHAN is a well-known all-around athlete from Massachusetts. He is a graduate of Williams College. He is a platoon commander and a physical education instructor.

ENSIGN JOHN J. DALY is from Jamaica Plain, Mass. He was football captain at Williams College. He is a platoon commander and a physical education instructor.

ENSIGN JACK VER LEE is from Denver College where he was an all-around athlete and he has been a prominent high school basketball and baseball coach on Long Island.

ENSIGN IRVING S. TUTT is from Marblehead, Mass. He will be a coach in baseball at the Pre-Flight school and a Platoon Commander in the military organization.

ENSIGN BERNARD S. SCHIFFER is from New York. He was graduated from New York University where he was a basketball star. He has played professional basketball. He is a Platoon Commander.

NOTE. The aforementioned men were on this station when this list was compiled. Other officers will arrive between now and the opening day.

Among the Naval Personnel in attendance at today's exercises are:

Captain O. B. Hardison, U. S. Navy -- Aide to the Under Secretary of the Navy for Air. He is a native of North Carolina, and an honor graduate of the Naval Academy in the Class of 1916. Represents the Secretary at the commissioning exercises of the PRE-FLIGHT SCHOOL at Chapel Hill.

Captain Leland F. Lovette, U. S. Navy -- Public Relations Officer, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., graduate of Annapolis in the Class of 1918. He is the author of several books pertaining to the Navy, one of which, NAVAL CUSTOMS, TRADITIONS, AND USAGE, has become a watch-word in the Service and is used at most Service schools as a text book, and is part of all maritime libraries. Captain Lovette has recently returned from the Pacific where he was in command of a division of destroyers during the attack upon Pearl Harbor.

Lieutenant Commander Victor F. Blakeslee, U. S. Navy (Ret.) A native of Massachusetts, and an old resident of Pennsylvania. He graduated from Annapolis in 1919, Class of 1920. As a Midshipman he was captain of the Navy baseball team. His present duty is Head of the Magazine Section of the Bureau of Public Relations, Navy Department, Washington, D. C. Lieutenant Commander Blakeslee is a well-known author, and an authority on Russia and international affairs. He was retired in 1924, as a Lt.(jg). He returned to active duty shortly after the beginning of the emergency and was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Commander on the Retired List in November, 1941.

Lieutenant Commander C. R. Price, U. S. Navy (Ret.) -- of the Sixth Naval District of Charleston, South Carolina, has co-operated unceasingly in the setting up of the PRE-FLIGHT SCHOOL at Chapel Hill.

Lieutenant Everett B. Morris of the Physical Training section, Bureau of Aeronautics, Washington, D. C. -- Served in the Navy in the first World War and since that time has worked as a sports writer for the New York Herald Tribune, and has been prominently identified with the promotion of major intercollegiate contests along the eastern seaboard.

Commander J. C. Webb, USNR -- has conducted the financial organization of the Pre-Flight Schools from his office in the Bureau of Naval Personnel, Washington, D. C. He is an honor graduate of Annapolis in 1919, Class of 1920, and has a distinguished record in the U. S. Navy.

Lieutenant W. B. Bayless, U. S. Navy -- Graduated from the Naval Academy with Class of 1936. While a Midshipman, he was one of the better-known athletes, having won varsity letters in football, basketball and crew. He is the last Midshipman to have won honors in both football and crew, for in recent years due to spring football practice it has been impossible for an athlete to participate in both sports. He is a Naval Aviator and has been instrumental in choosing the physical directors for the Pre-Flight Schools.

Lieutenant Commander Thomas J. Hamilton, U. S. Navy -- is the Director of the Physical Training Division of the Bureau of Aeronautics.

At the Naval Academy he was one of the best all-round athletes in recent history and was also an outstanding student. He is the permanent Class President of the Class of 1927. He was Navy football coach for three years and is the youngest man ever to hold a major coaching position in this Nation. In his first year as head coach his team won eight and lost one game. During his three-year duty his teams twice defeated the Army and also won two out of three over Notre Dame. He has been prominent as a Navy flyer for the past few years, and was appointed Director of the Physical Training Program for Naval Aviation late in December, 1941, and has been in full charge of this phase of the Bureau of Aeronautics.

Lieutenant Frank Wickhorst, USNR -- A star athlete in several sports at the Naval Academy from which he was graduated with the Class of 1927. He has been on duty with the Bureau of Aeronautics Training Division and has travelled from coast to coast to the various Naval Air Stations inspecting the facilities and assisting in formulating the physical fitness programs. Lieutenant Wickhorst was Captain and Tackle of the Navy team in the famous 21 - 21 Army-Navy game at Chicago in 1926 and was named on the first All-American team of that year.

NAVAL CUSTOMS CONNECTED WITH TODAY'S CEREMONY

Naval customs featuring today's commissioning are many and varied. A shore station is commissioned in much the same manner as a new ship. One of the most interesting traditions of the Navy is that of blowing the Boatwain's pipe. The Boatwain's pipe in days gone by used to be carried on a chain around the neck of high ranking officers aboard ship. The metal from which the pipe and chain was made signified his rank--that is, a gold pipe signified admiral, a silver pipe signified captain, etc. However, this custom was changed many years ago and the boatwain's mates aboard ship now carry the pipe and blow it when they want quiet among the men aboard for several reasons--to pass out important information verbally, to have the men come to attention for the commanding officer, or if some dignitary is passing through that particular part of the ship.

The sound of a boatwain's pipe is a high pitched one which can be heard distinctly above ordinary voices or the sounds of the ocean dashing against the ship. Also, the boatwain's pipe is always blown when a high ranking naval officer comes aboard ship, or a high ranking official such as the President of the United States or the Secretary of the Navy comes aboard. Likewise, the boatwain's pipe is used in piping the visiting officials over the side as they leave the ship.

"Hoisting the Colors" in Naval language merely means the raising of the flag to the top of the flag staff. The Ensign in the Navy has a dual meaning; first, it signifies the flag of the U. S., and second, it signifies the junior commissioned officer in the Navy. As a point of interest, the Ensign, or the American flag to you and me, is flown at the gaff, which is near the top of the mainmast, from 8:00 A. M. until sunset when a ship is at sea, and on a short flag staff at the very rear of the ship when at anchor.

"Setting the Watch" in the Navy when a ship is commissioned, means that the station or ship is then a part of the U. S. Navy, and will be governed according to all Navy regulations and customs.

The official "Log" was put into operation today. The Log in the Navy is a perpetual record kept by the senior officer when on duty of all outstanding happenings during his few hours in charge. All changes in weather are recorded periodically, all ships sighted are immediately entered into the Log together with the exact time of such occurrences. Men reporting aboard or leaving a ship or station are recorded in the Log. It is the most vital record kept in the Navy, and it is strictly against Navy regulations to erase any entry in the Log. In case of error, a line may be drawn lightly through the error, but it must be initialed by the officer making the error and correction.

Many terms used in the Navy are "Greek" to us civilians--for example, the expression, "Aye, aye, sir." This means "I understand your order, and shall carry it out immediately." The reason "Aye, aye, sir" is used instead of "All right, sir", as you and I would say, is that the latter could easily be misinterpreted by the man steering the ship and cause him to turn the rudder to the right, possibly resulting in collision or serious damage. For this reason, there is no such expression in the Navy as "all right" or "right" except those given to the man steering the ship.

FACTS AND FIGURES

BETWEEN

DOTS AND DASHES

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About one hundred officers of the Pre-Flight School are now on hand at the Station. . . .The complete personnel will not report for several weeks, pending completion of courses at the Naval Academy. . . .However, by May 28, when the School officially opens there will be sufficient officer personnel on hand to man the Station effectively. . . .Included in that personnel will be leaders in business, civic and athletic life, men who have made a success of their own careers and will aid the cadets to start off on the right foot as embryo pilots. . . .

Two hundred and thirty-two cadets will start their courses here at the Pre-Flight School next Thursday. . . .The daily routine will keep the young men busy from 0530 (5:30 A.M.) until 2130 (9:30 P.M.). . . .However, from 1800 (6:00 P.M.) on the program is of a light nature. . . .

Athletics are not planned for the sake of athletics but rather as a means to an end, the proper conditioning of all of the young men in the course. . . .These future flyers are already fine physical specimens or they would not have passed the strict regulations governing acceptance into the Air Corps of the Navy. . . .

